Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1, 4, 7, 10 and 13 without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 15-18 as shown in the Listing of Claims.

Please amend the claims as shown below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method for processing images according to ~~claim 1~~claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

splitting each of the first image data unit and the second image data unit into a plurality of blocks; and

measuring the similarity index between the first image data unit and the second image data unit on a block-to-block basis.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A method for processing images according to ~~claim 4~~claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

splitting each of the first image data unit and the second image data unit into a plurality of blocks; and

specifying at least one block to specify the region in the first image data unit.

6. (currently amended) A method for processing images comprising the steps of:

obtaining image data units;

selecting a first image data unit as a reference for measuring a similarity index and specifying a region for measuring the similarity index in the first image data unit;

specifying a region in a second image data unit in the remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, the region in the second image data unit corresponding to the specified region in the first image data unit, the second image data unit being determined by excluding, from a subject for measuring the similarity index, image data units having different attribute information from attribute information of the first image data in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the image data units; and

measuring the similarity index between the specified region in the first image data unit and the specified ~~corresponding~~ region in the second image data unit.

7-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) An apparatus for processing images according to ~~claim 7~~claim 12 further comprising splitting means for splitting the image data units into a plurality of blocks, wherein the similarity-measuring means measures the similarity index between the image data unit selected by the selecting means and an image data unit that is stored in the image-storing means and that is not excluded by the excluding means.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) An apparatus for processing images according to ~~claim 10~~claim 12 further comprising splitting means for splitting the image data units into a plurality of blocks, wherein the region-specifying means specifies at least one block to specify the region in the image data unit for measuring the similarity index.

12. (currently amended) An apparatus for processing images comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining image data units;

image-storing means for storing the image data units;

selecting means for selecting an image data unit as a reference for measuring similarity index and for specifying a region for measuring the similarity index in the selected image data unit;

specifying means for specifying a region in an image data unit in the remaining image data units stored in the image-storing means, the region in the image data unit corresponding to the specified region in the selected image data unit, the second image data unit being determined by excluding, from a subject for measuring the similarity index, image data units having different attribute information from attribute information of the first image data in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the image data units; and

similarity-measuring means for measuring the similarity index between the specified region in the selected image data unit and the specified ~~corresponding~~ region in the image data unit.

13-14. (canceled)

15. (new) A method for processing images according to claim 6, wherein the second image data unit excluding images having different attribute information from attribute information of the first image data in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles, are determined by comparing attribute information of the first image data unit with attribute information of the remaining image data units other than the first image data unit.

16. (new) An apparatus for processing images according to claim 12, wherein the second image data unit excluding images having different attribute information from attribute information of the first image data in terms of pan

angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles, are determined by comparing attribute information of the first image data unit with attribute information of the remaining image data units other than the first image data unit.

17. (new) A computer-readable program medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method for processing images comprising:

obtaining image data units;

selecting a first image data unit as a reference for measuring a similarity index and specifying a region for measuring the similarity index in the first image data unit;

specifying a region in a second image data unit in the remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, the region in the second image data unit corresponding to the specified region in the first image data unit, the second image data unit being determined by excluding, from a subject for measuring the similarity index, image data units having different attribute information from attribute information of the first image data in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the image data units; and

measuring the similarity index between the specified region in the first image data unit and the specified region in the second image data unit.

18. (new) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium, the computer program having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for processing images comprising:

obtaining image data units;

selecting a first image data unit as a reference for measuring a similarity index and specifying a region for measuring the similarity index in the first image data unit;

specifying a region in a second image data unit in the remaining image data units other than the first image data unit, the region in the second image data unit corresponding to the specified region in the first image data unit, the second image data unit being determined by excluding, from a subject for measuring the similarity index, image data units having different attribute information from attribute information of the first image data in terms of pan angles, tilt angles, and zoom angles of a camera being used during capturing the image data units; and

measuring the similarity index between the specified region in the first image data unit and the specified region in the second image data unit.